

Good afternoon Committee Chair Matthew Hall and Tax Policy Committee Members,

My name is Stephen Redding, and I am a lifelong Michigan resident, EMT first responder, and second year medical student at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

I am writing today to voice my support for Michigan House Bills 5267 and 4270. Through my training in medicine, it is clear that feminine hygiene products, such as pads and tampons, are a necessity for biological women to maintain hygienic, mental, and physical health.

Hygienic supplies such as toothpaste, toilet paper, and deodorant are necessities for both men and women to maintain comfort and health in their everyday life. They allow us to feel clean while we are at home, working, or completing errands around town. Biological women are faced with an additional burden to maintaining hygiene in the fact that they regularly menstruate. While menstruation has been labeled as a taboo subject in many spaces, it does not change the need for appropriate sanitation to avoid adverse health outcomes by women on her periods. As a medical professional-in-training, I have a vested interest in improving the health of the populations that I will have the honor serving and improving access to necessary health products will immensely benefit the populations of the great state of Michigan.

I am pleased to see that a change to the tax law has been proposed to include feminine hygiene products as tax exempt, and I hope that these bills are supported unanimously. Many other states have enacted similar changes, such as Oregon, Illinois, Florida, and Connecticut, to end the tampon tax. As we have established our state as a leader in protecting the health of our residents, it is time to further improve the physical and mental health of our population.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you. I ask you to validate your support for promoting the health of the residents of the State of Michigan today by unanimously supporting these bills.